Date: January 16, 2007

To: All IHS

From: Director
           Office of Information Technology

Subject: Decommission of the RPMS "Mental Health/Social Service" Software Application

ISSUE

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), has upgraded the IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) Mental Health/Social Service (MH/SS) software application to the Behavioral Health System (BHS). Effective immediately, the OIT is decommissioning MH/SS and asking sites to ensure they have implemented the BHS software application in its place. Technical support for MH/SS will cease as of January 22, 2006.

DISCUSSION

The OIT released BHS in 2003 and deployed an enhanced Behavioral Health Graphical User Interface (BH GUI) version in 2004. Multiple versions and patches of BHS and BH GUI (a component in the RPMS Patient Chart) have been released since then. The BHS expands MH/SS to cover a broader spectrum of care for mental health, social work, and alcohol and substance abuse. It also includes the RPMS Suicide Reporting Form and the alcohol, depression and domestic violence screening exam codes in support of Agency initiatives and GPRA clinical performance measures. The BH GUI offers a user-friendly, Windows interface to the data entry module of BHS and facilitates direct provider entry of clinical information.

The RPMS behavioral health applications allow IHS, Tribal and Urban providers to document clinical services provided; to generate reports for local, Area and national use; and to export behavioral health data to the IHS National Programs and the Division of Behavioral Health. As part of the RPMS integrated suite of clinical applications, BHS and BH GUI provide the opportunity for enhanced coordination of behavioral health and primary care services.

The majority of IHS sites have already converted to BHS or the enhanced BH GUI; however, there are a few sites that still need to be upgraded. These sites will receive emergency support for MH/SS and will be assisted in upgrading to the current BHS or BH GUI version.

After the MH/SS software application is decommissioned, the IHS National Programs will no longer receive behavioral health data via the MH/SS export. Only export files created via the BHS export process will be accepted. (The official RPMS namespace assigned to BHS is AMH. Please refer to the RPMS AMH User Manual for complete instructions on the export function.)

For assistance in implementing BHS or BH GUI/Patient Chart, please contact your local Information Systems Coordinator. For more information about the RPMS behavioral health applications please visit: http://www.ihs.gov/cio/bh/

Thank you for your assistance.

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